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30 March 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Staff Meeting Minutes of 30 March 1981

The Director chaired the meeting. []

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The Director noted the leaks on the SNIE on Soviet Involvement in International Terrorism which appeared in the media over the weekend and commented that he didn't know how the information leaked nor had he decided what to do about it.

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[] The Director mentioned that he and Admiral Inman thought that the CIA draft read like a "lawyer's brief" and didn't deal satisfactorily with the full scope of the Administration's concerns. The Director said he felt that DIA's alternative views expressed more succinctly the scope of the problem and that the way to solve the problem is to allow DIA to redraft the SNIE and then have a close review and critique of it. The Director went on that he felt this SNIE was going in the same direction as the SNIE which was written on Soviet involvement in Iran where he felt that DIA's case was more persuasive than CIA's, but he allowed the CIA version to be published. He was not going to follow that course in this case. The Director noted that he knows there will be assertions that he is bending to political pressures on the SNIE, but this is not the case. Clarke noted that he had information that Senator Percy is going to request a copy of the draft SNIE. The Director agreed with Thorpe's advice that we decline providing him a copy at this time. []

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The Director noted his session with the NFIC on 27 March which considered the Executive Order 12036. The Director said he has told the NSC the final draft will be submitted to them on 7 April and asked McMahon to ensure that all the operational components have a chance to see the revisions and comment on them before then. McMahon said his people have had a chance to comment under the guidelines that we will not conduct operations in the United States. McMahon stated that a major problem is the definition of a U.S. person; he feels that the definition should be more exact. In response to the Director's question about who should be covered under the restrictions of the Executive Order, McMahon responded only U.S. citizens or U.S. corporations operating in the U.S. McMahon cited the case where Chinese nationals in the U.S. get green alien cards which they know will impede U.S. operations against them while they are here. McMahon added in CI we have to prove an individual is an agent of a foreign power before we can move against him. []

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In response to the Director's question about the status of the Latin American and Cuban estimates, Lehman said the Cuban estimate will be out in draft later this week and that there is not time to circulate the paper to NFIB for consideration at the 2 April meeting. He added the estimate will be completed in time for the next NFIB meeting. Lehman noted the SNIE on the Horn of Africa is scheduled for consideration on 2 April. []

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In response to the Director's request, [] said he would provide a listing of external analysis assistance provided the Agency by outside contractors and consultants. []

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Clarke briefed on the military situation in and around Poland and provided the Director with a map showing the disposition of Soviet and Bloc forces. He reported that Soviet naval units may be headed for Cuba but this was not unusual and does not appear to pose a problem. In response

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Hetu said that as a result of George Lardner's article last week on FOIA, the media have been requesting more information. The Director told Hetu to provide a little bit more information to the requesters. []

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Lehman briefed on the Polish political situation and noted that optimists say it is possible that a compromise may be worked out, while the pessimists are saying it is too late for anything to be done to calm the situation. Lehman noted that it is too late for the Solidarity Front to call off the 31 March strike and that the Soviets have locked themselves into a hard-line position by their statements over the weekend and that it will be difficult for them not to react if the Solidarity Front is not defeated. The situation is still critical. []

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